

LATE NEWS FROM THE WRITING AND PUBLISHING WORLD

HISTORY, FICTION AND OTHER BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Those who fear that the younger generation is given up wholly to athletic sports and to materialistic ambitions should look over the literature which skilled purveyors keep on preparing for it. Nearly every subject of boyish enthusiasm is looked after by them, and sometimes their reputation, greater even than the topic, attracts. The books belonging to some series or other now before us seem endless; and we are driven to some form of rough classification.

Beginning first with stories dealing with history and real adventures we find that beloved veteran, Edward S. Ellis, still active and vigorous with a two volume series about the struggle for Texas, "The Three Arrows" and "Remember the Alamo" (The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia). His worthy successor, Joseph A. Altshuler, keeps up in his exciting civil war series the excellent plan of having his boy heroes on the opposite sides in alternate volumes; the war advances in "The Scouts of Stonewall" and "The Sword of Antietam" (Appletons). Pioneer history never loses its attraction; a set of Boy Scouts is taken by Percy K. Fitzhugh "In the Path of La Salle" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company) down the Mississippi with some adventure and much instruction. Everett T. Tomlinson's youths actually engage in "Scouting With Daniel Boone" (Doubleday, Page and Company), which is a more satisfactory arrangement. The noble red man is prominent, as he should be, in Everett McNeill's "The Totem of Black Hawk" (McClurg and Company, Chicago), the sort of story boys used to like forty years ago. John T. McIntyre's hero hunters have a lively time "In Texas With Davy Crockett" (The Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia), third of the "Buckskin" series. The latest of the Wild West heroes is the central figure of Edwin L. Sabine's "Buffalo Bill and the Overland Trail" (D. B. Lippincott Company). Finally, the romancers have started in to exploit the present war in Europe and Ross Kay makes a beginning with a kind of detective tale "The Search for the Spies" (Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York). "The Treasure Finders" (Duffield and Company), while a comprehensive account of exploration, is wholly didactic and instructive, not fiction. With "The Last Raid," the fifth volume, Byron A. Dunn completes his series about the civil war in Missouri (A. C. McClurg and Company).

The striking sketches of a small boy of a family that Maude Howard (D. B. Lippincott Company) has written in "The Commodore" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, Boston) are intended for grown people rather than children. So long as he remains a child the boy is a fine fellow and natural, in spite of the author's intense emotion in the naval academy that emotion runs over; her hero must be made pathetic at all costs. Commander Edward I. Beach starts the hero of four previous books on his career as an officer in "Roger Paulding, Ensign" (The Penn Publishing Company), and Captain C. E. Kilbourne takes his West Point hero on further service in "An Army Boy in Mexico" (The Penn Publishing Company). A third installment of a youth's experience at West Point, as it used to be, is provided by Florence Kimball Russell in "From Chevroons to Shoulders" (The Page Company, Boston).

In the stories of college and preparatory schools, as in the modern curriculum, athletics have wholly supplanted studies, and the young reader's curiosity is chiefly about what game will be described. No more need be said of "Captain Danny" (Appletons) than that it is a baseball tale and that Walter Camp has written it. Young readers know the books that lead up to it. As little comment is needed for Ralph Henry Barbour's "Left End Edwards" (Dodd, Mead and Company) save that it is the first of a football series which will give a volume to each member of the eleven and another one to the coach. Football predominates also in William Heyligers' "Off Side" (Appletons), which likewise takes up the matter of vocational training; in "The Rambler Club's Football Team" (The Penn Publishing Company), by W. Crispin Sheppard, tenth of the series, and "Bert Wilson on the Gridiron," by J. W. Duffield (Sully and Kleinteich, New York), seventh of the series. Baseball on the other hand engages Bert L. Stanish in "Lefty of the Bush" (Bare and Hopkins), the first of a "Big League" series, and George Barton in "The Bell Haven Nine" (The John C. Winston Company). The latter author makes the sole contribution to boating, which is touched upon in "The Bell Haven Eight" (The John C. Winston Company). The vacation occupations of Mr. Sheppard's young men supply "The Rambler Club" with the "Northwest Mounted" (The Penn Publishing Company) and those of Mr. Duffield's hero "Bert Wilson on the Rockies" (Sully and Kleinteich).

The books encouraging boys to do things abound. A. Russell Bond, in "Pick Shovel and Pluck" (Munn and Company, New York), takes his young engineering enthusiasts on a tour of the United States, explaining the marvels of the craft. The particular activity that engages Francis Roll-Wheeler in "The Boy with the U. S. Explorers" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company), is that of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the Department of Agriculture. It leads his hero into adventures and dangers all over the world that will astonish the reader, who is unaware of the extent of the Government's paternalism. A description of many things that the Government does, some great and useful, some commonplace, and even some which people may think should be alone, is given by William Atherton Dupuy in "Uncle Sam's Modern Miracles" (Frederick A. Stokes Company).

The cult of outdoor life is kept up by Chas. J. Hawkins, who, in "Scout Pressley's Carbon Hunt" (Little Brown and Company), sends his hero for the first time into the woods for game; by Edwin L. Sabine in "Scarface Ranch" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company), making the boys who have gone through previous ranching adventures, settle on a ranching claim; by Thornton W.

Burgess, who keeps on booming the Boy Scouts, with "The Boy Scouts on Lost Trail" (The Penn Publishing Company), and by D. Lange with a tale of frontier Indians, "Lost in the Fur Country" (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company). A few books that have reached us deviate somewhat from the conventions which youth and custom have set. Lewis E. Theiss, a new writer, gives a vivid picture of the happenings in a boys' camp, under the title "In Camp at Fort Brady" (W. A. Wilde Company). Though the characters are fictitious, the scenes described, and probably the incidents, are real. The author brings to notice a wholly neglected portion of the United States, the present Susquehanna valley. It is a pleasant book to read. Fisher Ames, Jr., in "The Boys of Eastmarsh" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company), dwells a good deal on the rougher side of athletics. The scene of the story is the New England sea coast and there is a good deal of rustic detective work in it. The short stories in James Orlis' "Across the Range" (Harpers) are bright and variegated; even those with a moral are not preachy. It is a story of a boy who, a few years ago, that Marshall Jenkins has written in "A Freshman Scout at College" (Appletons), of the time when football was abolished. The book will be read by all Columbia men, whether it meets the fate of similar books about Harvard and Yale or not. The main theme of Ralph Henry Barbour's "The Brother of a Hero" (Appletons) is the trouble a boy has in school or college from having had a brother before him who distinguished himself. This does not deter athletics, of course. Hawley Williams' "Johnson of Lansing" (Appletons), a tale of schoolboy enemies, is in the main a baseball story. Finally, "Phillip Kent" by T. Truxton Hare (The Penn Publishing Company), tells of the troubles of the smaller schoolboy and how the hero is licked into shape.

FOR VERY LITTLE ONES. For small children the taste of publishers swings from a very large page to a very small one and books intended for them are usually either in miniature editions or in album sizes. Beginning with the big books we have two collections of miscellaneous prose and verse: "Dutton's Holiday Annual," edited by Alfred C. Pysano (Ernest Nister, E. P. Dutton and Company), a collection of tales, verses, pictures, plain and colored, that will keep its possessor occupied for a long time. Similar in character and likewise full of attractions, pictorial and literary, is "Stokes' Wonder Book," edited by Harry Golding (Frederick A. Stokes Company). Both books were made in Great Britain. Prehistoric man is treated with great levity, both in words and pictures, by E. Boyd Smith in "The Early Life of Mr. Man" (Houghton Mifflin Company). The pictures are artistic as well as

funny; the information is strictly antiquarian. The scientific merits of "The Hard Animals," by Adella Belle Beard (Frederick A. Stokes Company), are vouched for by Dr. W. T. Hornaday. The pictures are life size representations of infant rodents, which are to be cut out and mounted. Provided likewise with pictures which provide surprises when cut into is "The Bettjak Book," by Clara Andrews Williams, with colored pictures by George Alfred Williams (Frederick A. Stokes Company). This seems to be of the nature of a continuous puzzle. Also, strictly dependent on the shears, is "The Mary Ware Doll Book," by W. M. Crocker (The Page Company, Boston), a series of colored costumes, labeled with the names of characters in a story book by Annie Fellows Johnston. In "Fairy Surprise Pictures" (Ernest Nister; E. P. Dutton and Company) curious changes are made by revolving a disk. The verses are by L. L. Weedon.

The attraction of "The Animals' Touring Club" (Ernest Nister; E. P. Dutton and Company) lies in the comical pictures by C. H. Thompson, Sheila E. Braine provides the verse. Less elaborate books that call for infantile manipulation are "Pretty Paper Pets" by Margaret Nister (E. P. Dutton and Company) and "The Hazzell Painting Book" (E. P. Dutton and Company). Collections of pictures and verses such as will please little children, with no other complications, appear in quarto form in "Jingles and Rhymes" by Mary D. Brine (Ernest Nister; E. P. Dutton and Company) and in "Poetrybooks and Goldenheads" by Ruth M. Bedford, the pictures by Mabel L. Weeks (Frederick A. Stokes Company). In smaller form, with graceful combinations of children with flowers and with butterflies, by Penny Ross, are "The Flower Basket Book" verse by Anna M. Scott, and "The Butterfly Babies" Book," verse

the work of the men about him explained for him by William John Hopkins in "The Doers" (Houghton Mifflin Company). Finally two young ones continue their exertions in "The Little Runaways at Orchard House," fourth

of the series, by Alice Turner Curtis (The Penn Publishing Company). They are directed this time to helping city children sent for an outing in the country.

HISTORY FOR YOUTH. A clear memory of what normal boys really like in books has led George Alfred Williams to adapt to their use a standard work on piracy that is not easily obtainable, John Esquemeling's "The Buccaneers of America" (Frederick A. Stokes Company). He was a companion of Morgan and wrote the record of his doings in Dutch. He is the first hand authority for most that is known about that band. Mr. Williams has followed the seventeenth century translation, his colored pictures will gratify the barbaric taste of youth. It is a book which the boy who gets it will be sure to read and which may impress on his mind the picturesque geography of the West Indies.

Another good idea is the simplification of the exciting story of the struggle for freedom of the Dutch against Spain, which will be found in "The Boy's Motley" by Helen Ward Banks (Frederick A. Stokes Company). Motley and Prescott, we fear, serve more to adorn the bookshelves than to be read nowadays. Recent events in Europe have revived the memory of what the hardy dwellers in the Netherlands did once before, and wide awake boys will want to know the story. There are colored pictures by A. D. McCormick.

Going back to antiquity, Mary Macgregor follows the usual tradition with "The Story of Greece" (Frederick A. Stokes Company) and makes it end with Alexander. On the other hand she delays long over poetic legends before beginning. There are many colored

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poetry and tragedy. Dido being the sole Latin section. Illustrated with photographs from paintings.

Short accounts of the youth of many famous people and some less conspicuous Britons have been compiled by Amy Steadman in "When They Were Children" (Frederick A. Stokes Company). She begins with St. Augustine and Giotto but much the larger proportion is of fairly modern celebrities, the last are Gordon, Edison and R. L. Stevenson. The stories of fifteen children on the throne are told by H. E. Marshall in "Boy-Kings and Girl-Queens" (Frederick A. Stokes Company) of the four girls all were mermaid wives, even Mary Stuart, for her Scottish career was after she had grown up, of the boys two were German, four British and five French.

Again, for somewhat older young people, William Henry Hudson has written the biography of "The Man Napoleon" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company), which is a compact history of his career. It is illustrated with colored pictures.

A new series of historical biographies suited for young people old enough to be entering college is issued by the Frederick A. Stokes Company under the general title "Heroes of All Time." The volumes vary considerably in the amount of their contents and in the authors' method of handling their subjects. Those at hand are "Alexander

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rather haphazard in other countries. The author does explain many terms and names that occur frequently.

The "Tales of Old New York" by Albert Tinnann and Grace C. Strachan (Appletons) is a school book. It tells the stories of the settlement and the Dutch rule rather didactically but correctly and supplies information which every New York child should have.

the Great" by Ada Russell; "Augustus" by René Francis; "Alfred the Great" by A. E. McKilliam; "Jeanne d'Arc" by E. M. Wilton-Buxton and "Sir Walter Raleigh" by Beatrice Marshall. Each volume has a colored frontispiece and other pictures.

A good idea is not carried out very well in H. A. Ogden's "The Boy's Book of Famous Regiments" (McBride, Nast and Company, New York). A fair account of some British regiments is given and a description of corps selected

from "THE FOREST OF ARDEN" by GEORGE WHARTON EDWARDS (Stokes).

FROM LOUIS RHEAD EDITION HANS ANDERSEN (Harper).

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